

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Environmental Assessment
Interim Report IIIa – Modified Structures and Operations,
Chicago Area Waterways

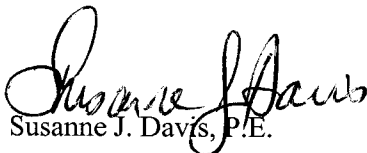
Notice is hereby given of the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) regarding the possible addition of in-stream structures in the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWs) to further reduce the risk of Asian carp dispersing from the CAWs into Lake Michigan.

The Corps of Engineers was directed in Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Section 3061 (b)(1)(D) to conduct a study of a range of options and technologies that may reduce the efficacy of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barriers System (Barriers). The directed efficacy study is structured in a series of Interim Reports in order to focus on issues which are the most urgent and/or for which sufficient information is available. The Barriers are designed to reduce the risk of Asian carp from dispersing into Lake Michigan but additional risk reduction measures are being investigated. If established the Asian carp could disrupt the complex food web of the ecosystem and damage the Great Lakes ecology along with the commercial and sport fishing industry.

Interim Report IIIa – The focus of the EA will be limited to understanding the environmental consequences of implementing additional in-stream barrier / deterrent technologies at key locations in the Illinois Waterway and CAWs. The technologies under consideration include Acoustic Deterrents, Air Bubble Curtains and/or Strobe Lights. The technologies could be used individually or in combination with each other.

The EA will evaluate the environmental, economic, and social impacts of the proposed actions. Preliminary analyses indicate that the in-stream barrier / deterrent technologies will have minimal impacts to the natural and physical environment and no significant economic or social impacts.

Public comments are requested to help in determining the level of analysis and the impacts to be considered in the Environmental Assessment for implementing additional in-stream barrier / deterrent technologies. Comments must be received by 8 March 2010. Please direct all comments by email to Mr. Peter Bullock at peter.y.bullock@usace.army.mil.



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